

For Immediate Release
May 21, 2005

CONTACT: Andy Backman
508-868-6592

STATE, LAND TRUST AND WATER COMPANY ESTABLISH A PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC TRAIL ACCESS

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Metacomet Land Trust today announced a partnership with the Whitinsville Water Company which will permit non-motorized trail use on a portion of private watershed land, connecting with the trail system in adjacent state forest land.

“The opportunity for trail users to connect from the Purgatory Chasm State Reservation and Sutton State Forest trail system, into this exemplary watershed property, will enhance public recreation and help protect important natural resources,” said DCR State Parks and Recreation Director Priscilla Geigis. “This will also be an important link in the Manchaug Greenway, a conservation initiative that is supported by the Towns of Sutton and Douglas, the Metacomet Land Trust and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.”

Secretary of Environmental Affairs Ellen Roy Herzfelder said, “The Whitinsville Water Company Trails Partnership is a great example of the type of collaboration that this administration is fostering through EOE’s Public/Private Partnership Initiative. We are very proud of this new partnership to engage private and nonprofit corporations as long-term partners with the Commonwealth. It will provide a variety of recreational and resource stewardship benefits.”

The trails agreement allows the Department of Conservation and Recreation and Metacomet Land Trust to permit non-motorized trail use on a portion of the Whitinsville Water Company land in Sutton. The forest paths bring visitors to two scenic reservoirs within the watershed property.

“This successful project is a good example of how partnerships can be strengthened by the involvement of nonprofit land trusts,” said Cliff Matthews, President of Metacomet Land Trust.

###

251 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
(617) 626-1250
(617) 626-1351 FAX
www.mass.gov/dcr

MITT ROMNEY
Governor

KERRY HEALEY
Lt. Governor

ELLEN ROY HERZFELDER
Secretary

STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
Acting Commissioner

